December 24 – 30, 2015 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 52 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 130, No. 52

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce recently named the winners in the Winter Fest competitions among several entries in various categories throughout the city.

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THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 52

A special "wish tree" has been installed in the lobby of the Summit decorated with tags designating items needed to help the therapeutic recreation program at the facility.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

Vol. 68, No. 52

More than 100 Inkster families will be helped with the gift of groceries and toys for the holiday season, funded by the Inkster Legends annual Christmas raffle.

See page 4.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

Vol. 15, No. 24

District officials reported that students in the Northville Schools "performed comparatively well overall" on the first-ever MSTEP test.

See page 3.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

Vol. 15, No. 52

Teachers in the Plymouth Canton Community Schools rejected a proposed two-year contract with the district during a recent vote.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 130, No. 52

Members of the Romulus City Council have taken the first step toward the renovation and expansion of the 34th District Court.

See page 4.

THE WAYNE EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 52

The 29th District Court in Wayne has made what can be a stressful experience far more understandable and comfortable for those who visit the facility.

See page 5.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 68, No. 52

The Westland Local Officers Compensation Commission recommended increases to the salaries of the mayor, members of the city council and the city clerk.

See page 5.

School superintendent is 'replaced' by board

Members of the board of education relieved superintendent of Schools Michael Meissen of his duties.

Following a closed session meeting with the district legal counsel, Monica Merritt was named as interim superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community School District last week, replacing Meissen.

Merritt, who was an assistant superintendent under Meissen, began her new duties effective immediately following the Dec. 15 meeting. The announcement was presented as an "administration transition plan resolution" and was approved by a unanimous vote of the board of education members.

Meissen, who was not present at the meeting, was hired as the superintendent of schools in March of 2013. According to the plan approved by the board members, he will be required to fulfill the remaining six months of his contract although the resolution clearly removes him from any day-to-day operations of the district.

> *It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.*

Meissen's salary was $212,000 per year, plus benefits.

No reason for the transition was offered by members of the board or by district Community Relations Director Nick Bandon, who read a statement announcing the change during the meeting. In the formal resolution, Meissen was characterized as "an effective superintendent" but no further comment was made regarding his tenure with the district. The statement thanked Meissen for his two years with Plymouth-Canton and went on to call his successor "a great administrator who can seamlessly take over the day-to-day operations of the district."

Meissen issued a prepared statement regarding the transition.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. I will work collaboratively with the BOE (board of education) and Educational Team to transition the district to new leadership and build upon the successful work that has been completed during our partnership together.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this exceptional school district and to serve these outstanding students, teachers, staff, principals, parents and community. It is my desire to pursue other educational leadership positions in public education that are compatible with family needs and priorities," Meissen's statement said.

"Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to working with the team to ensure a smooth transition," Merritt, a resident of the district, said at the end of the meeting."

And the winners are

Named as the 2016 Distinguished Young Women of Wayne Westland during a presentation last week was Riana Hardyniec, above left, a senior at Wayne Memorial High School. First runner-up at the event was Kelsie Wysong, also a senior at Wayne Memorial High School. The 2017 Distinguished Young Woman is Kaitlyn Balko, below left, a junior at John Glenn High School and first runner up for the 2017 honor was Antrunkia Alonza, also a junior at Wayne Memorial High School. Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in a showcase of their accomplishments, according to the non-profit organization website. Each of the winners was awarded scholarship money to help continue her education. The students will compete in the state program next month.

Teen suspects arrested

Four area teens face up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of breaking and entering Wayne Lawn & Garden Center earlier this month.

Canton police reported that the burglary took place at about 1 a.m. Dec. 6 at the Michigan Avenue business. Officers were alerted by an alarm company and through live audio could hear a loud noise in the building. Police said they believe the suspects may have used some type of tool to get inside the business, located near Lotz Road.

The suspects fled the scene when officers arrived, according to police reports. Officers arrested two of the teens at the scene and a third was arrested the same morning. The fourth suspect was identified and arrested later in the morning, police said, but is not being identified as he is a juvenile.

Not guilty pleas were entered for London Myles McLeod, 17, of Belleville, Ledell

See **Teens,** page 6

Purchase of police body cameras is OK'd

Members of the Canton Township Board of Trustees last week approved the expenditure of $30,000 for 60 body cameras to be used by the police department.

The body cameras will become standard equipment for the officers next spring, according to officials who cautioned that the township will need to develop policies and procedures regarding the use of the cameras to ensure that privacy rights are not violated in certain situations.

Public Safety Director Todd Mutchler said the cameras are critical for officers in an effort to record their actions and that the cameras will detail each public contact or arrest incident from the officer's viewpoint.

"It really levels the playing field," Mutchler told the board of trustees.

He added that policies would need to include activating or deactivating the camera and the response of the township to requests to view the tapes under the Freedom of Information Act. The township opted to purchase the cameras from BodyVISION. These camera are compatible with the in-car mobile camera already being used in Canton patrol cars.

Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy detailed his reasons for supporting the purchase and the need for the cameras including the documentation of arrests and encounters with police offices and the use of the video evidence in the investigation of crimes. He noted that the camera is a means of providing more transparency and can help improve and increase public trust in officers. He also cited the use of the videos of actual encounters as a training tool for new officers.

He explained that the cameras can also provide the evidence needed to evaluate citizen complaints and protect officers from false claims of misconduct.

Fire fighters union files for arbitration

The union representing the Belleville firefighters has filed for binding arbitration in an effort to settle a contract with the city.

Under the rules of Public Act 312, the city will be required to pay the cost of the arbitration after the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters filed the necessary paperwork claiming that all attempts to negotiate a contract have failed.

> *Belleville Firefighters are paid-on-call and are all members of the union with the exception of Chief Brian Loranger.*

Belleville Firefighters are paid-on-call and are all members of the union with the exception of Chief Brian Loranger. Attempts to negotiate a contract have been ongoing since firefighters joined the union more than 2 years ago. That move was prompted by the failure of the city to increase the training hour wage for firefighters to $10 an hour from the $5 previously paid. Belleville Fire Department Lt. Brian Blackburn said that paying the men in training less that the minimum hourly wage of about $7.70 an hour at the time was technically illegal. He also noted that the firefighters provided the city officials with a complete wage comparison and analysis, but no change was forthcoming, despite promises made to the firefighters by city officials.

Blackburn said the union organization was deemed necessary by the firefighters as the city was not taking their requests seriously.

Labor attorney John Clark and City Manager Diane Kollmeyer negotiated with the union regarding the wages for the 18 firefighters.

The union representatives claim that Clark and Kollmeyer repeatedly cancelled and

See **Contract,** page 3

Canton

Wish Tree installed at Summit for donations

A special "wish tree" has been installed in the lobby of the Summit decorated with tags designating items needed to help the therapeutic recreation program at the facility.

The items include stress balls, gardening tools, art and craft supplies, puzzles, books, gift cards and specialty sensory integration items, all important to the success of the program but not included in the budget.

The program serves 150 disabled individuals from throughout western Wayne County each year and provides help in the form job-building skills, swimming, holiday dances, movies and other activities. The activities are all designed to help disabled people become more independent and increase their social skills. The program includes activities for those with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities, officials said.

Once again this year, the $75,000 Wayne County grant that funds the program is in question. Without the funding from the county, the program will be reduced or be forced to increase fees, officials said.

The program serves people ages 15 and older year-round and, during summer months, it expands to include children 8-14 years old.

Monetary donations are also welcome and checks can be made payable to the Canton Community Foundation with Camp A.B.L.E. in the memo line, and mailed to the Canton Community Foundation, 50430 School House Road, Suite 200, Canton Township, MI 48187.

Welcome

Canton Public Safety Todd L. Mutchler, left, congratulates new police officer Lacey Polderdyke, after she took her oath of office administered by CantonTownship Clerk Terry Bennett. All new police officers in Canton are required to successfully complete a16-week instructor-led field training program, prior to working on their own. This program is designed to orientate and develop recruit officers, maximizing their potential and providing them with the tools necessary to successfully make the transition into their new position as a Canton police officer.

Art exhibit continues

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will present "Dream Creatures," a mixed media solo exhibition featuring the works of Took Gallagher through Jan. 31 in the Gallery@VT.

Displayed works include collages, plaster cloth sculptures, and hand-sewn items turned into dreamlike creatures based on the images the artist has seen emerge from the layers of paper, paint, and cloth that were used in her pieces.

Gallagher is a self-taught artist whose inspiration comes from many sources, including song lyrics, fairy tales, dreams, and misheard snippets of passing conversations, according to a prepared release. This self-taught artist allows these influences to work their way into her art subconsciously, which provides the artist with much surprise at the final results, the release continued.

This multi-media art exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday - Friday and during public performances at the theater. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

New police program set

The Canton Police Department is beginning a new program, Partners in Your Safety, designed to build a partnership with law enforcement and neighborhoods, promoting problem solving and creating safer neighborhoods.

Partners in Your Safety will empower individual neighborhoods with the resources and tools necessary to succeed in creating a safe community, officials said in a prepared release. Participating neighborhoods will have the opportunity to achieve accreditation status upon completion of the program requirements.

According to the release, the involvement of individuals residing in each neighborhood is vital to the success of the program. As residents become more involved, they will become aware of incidents and issues occurring in their neighborhoods. In turn, they will be able to move in a direction of crime reduction and prevention, with the guidance and assistance of the Canton Police Department.

For additional information, or to start the program in a neighborhood, contact Community Relations Officer Patty Esselink at (734)394-5194 or email her at communityrelations@canton-mi.org.

To subscribe to The Eagle call 734-467-1900.

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the ***First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.*** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A - ZONING, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, MICHIGAN, BY AMENDING ARTICLE 8.00 - AMENDING THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ON THE ZONING MAP AS FOLLOWS;

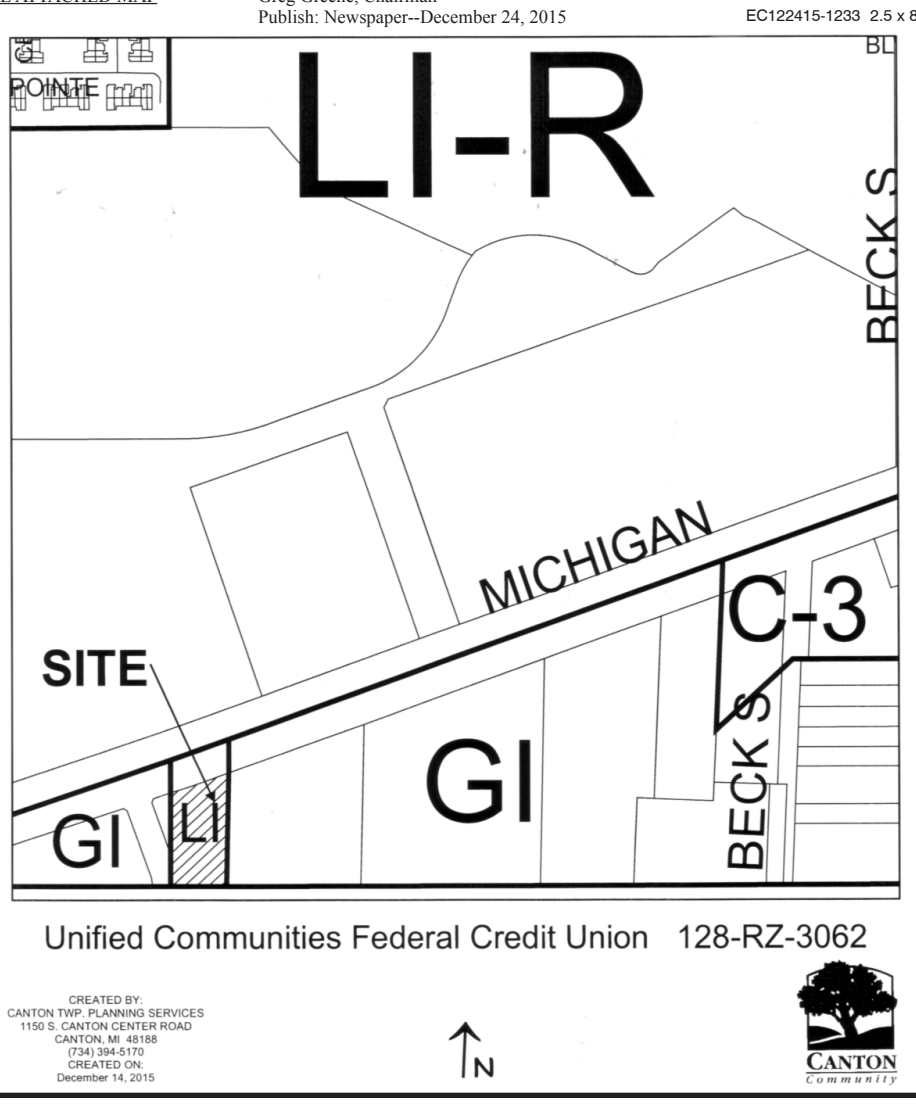
UNIFIED COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 128 99 0001 000 (48225 MICHIGAN) FROM LI, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO C-3, REGIONAL COMMERCIAL. Property is located south of Michigan Avenue and west of Beck Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 7, 2016, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Greg Greene, Chairman
Publish: Newspaper--December 24, 2015

EC122415-1233 2.5 x 8.59



Unified Communities Federal Credit Union 128-RZ-3062

CREATED BY:
CANTON TWP. PLANNING SERVICES
1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD
CANTON, MI 48188
(734) 394-5170
CREATED ON:
December 14, 2015

N

CANTON Community

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A - ZONING, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, MICHIGAN, BY AMENDING ARTICLE 8.00 - AMENDING THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ON THE ZONING MAP AS FOLLOWS;

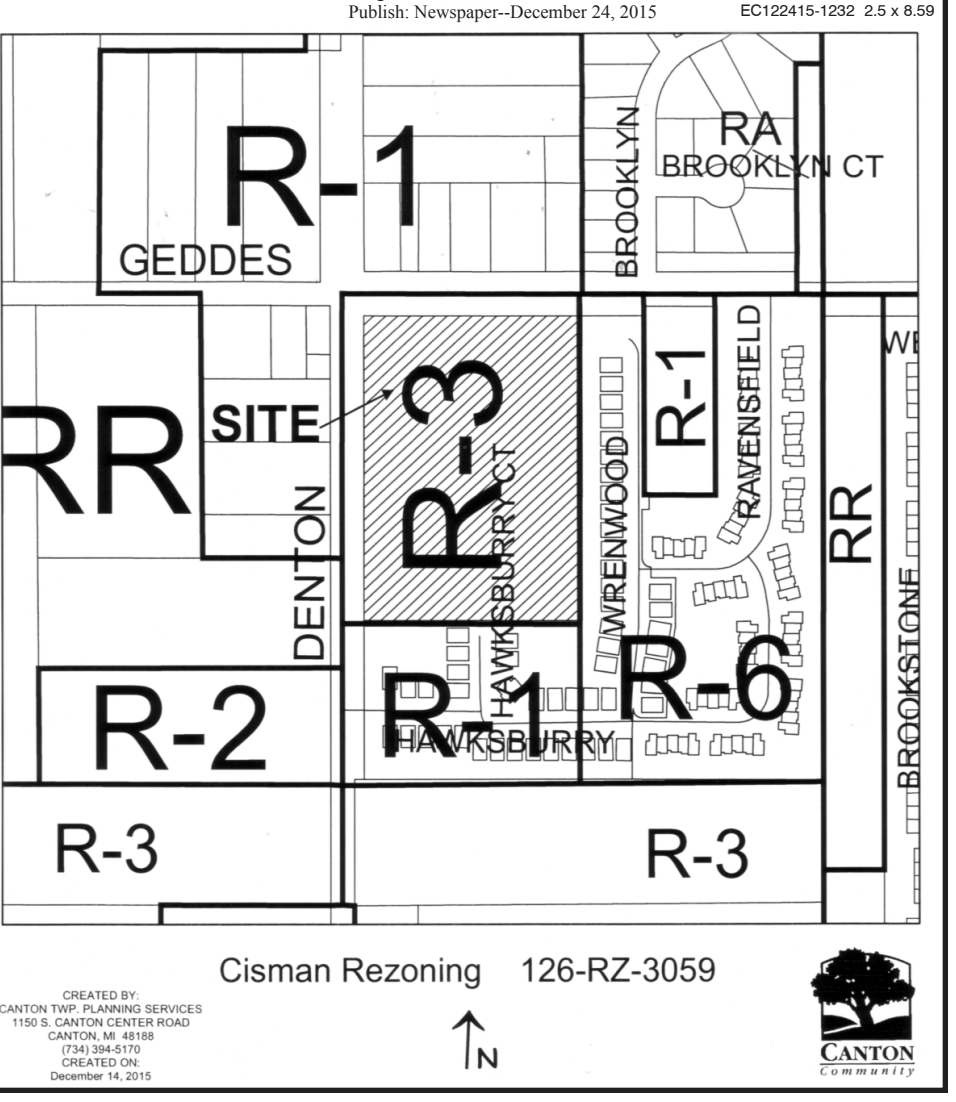
CISMAN REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 126 99 0008 701 FROM R-3, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (3 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE) TO R-4, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (4 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE). Property is located south of Geddes Road and east of Denton Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 7, 2016, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Greg Greene, Chairman
Publish: Newspaper--December 24, 2015

EC122415-1232 2.5 x 8.59



Cisman Rezoning 126-RZ-3059

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1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD
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December 14, 2015

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CANTON Community

BELLEVILLE - NORTHVILLE - PLYMOUTH

Teachers reject union contract offer

Teachers in the Plymouth Canton Community Schools rejected a proposed two-year contract with the district during a recent ratification vote.

A 73 percent majority of the 950 teachers who voted on the agreement were not in agreement with ratifying the contract which continued a pay freeze this year and a half-step pay increase next year for teachers in the first through 13th wage level. Those above that level were offered a half-percent increase next year.

Fifteen teachers, former teachers and parents spoke to members of the Plymouth Canton Board of Education recently explaining that wages for teachers have not kept pace with the economy and that district educators are finding it difficult to support their families and meet their obligations on the salaries they are currently paid. Teachers said that they could no longer afford the pay freezes and lower wages offered although they expressed understanding of the difficulties the board faced with the problems and uncertainties of state school funding.

Board President John Barrett told the crowded meeting room that the board members did understand the teachers' position but that the board is under a "severe economic hammer from Lansing," referring to Proposal A which has limited state funding to school districts.

Former Superintendent of School Michael Meissen said in a statement, "We understand the frustration expressed by our teachers and we will continue to work with them within the finances as dictated by the state. We believe in the process and we believe strongly in our teachers and deeply appreciate all they do for our students and families."

District evaluates scores on new state tests

District officials reported that students in the Northville Schools "performed comparatively well overall" on the first-ever Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), according to results released by the Michigan Department of Education.

This spring - after 44 years of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test - third through eighth graders from across the state sat down in front of computers to take the M-STEP in math and English language arts (ELA). In addition, fourth and seventh grade students were assessed in science and fifth and eighth graders took the M-STEP social studies test. Michigan 11th graders in the Class of 2016 also took the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) during the spring test period, including the M-STEP math, ELA, science and social studies assessments, along with the ACT college-entrance exam and WorkKeys.

Northville High School students in the Class of 2016 performed well on the ACT, officials said, recording an average composite score of 24.6, with 49 percent meeting the "college-ready" benchmark - a target set by Gov. Rick Snyder. In comparison, the statewide average ACT composite score for the test was 19.9, with 20.2 percent deemed college-ready as defined by ACT. According to state officials, the college-readiness score is the percentage of students meeting the ACT college benchmark in all ACT-tested subjects (English, reading, math and science).

According to the state education officials, the new assessment test reflects the more rigorous proficiency standards set in 2010, aimed at giving students a deeper understanding of what they are learning - taking students from just knowing the facts to learning how to use those facts to understand context, solve problems, and make their learning relevant. As a result, the new baseline scores under M-STEP may be lower in some subject areas and grade levels than with past MEAP scores, school officials said.

Adding to this caution are changes in the assessment test planned for the spring 2016 testing period in response the feedback from school districts, students and parents. Changes include reducing testing time for grades three, four, six and seven, as well as for 11th graders. The changes will also allow for tests to be administered in smaller portions over multiple days. In addition, beginning this spring, the SAT will serve as the Michigan college entrance exam and the M-STEP ELA and math assessments. Also new for this spring, ninth and 10th graders from across the state will take the PSAT.

"As with school districts across the state, the M-STEP results for our district and our students set a new baseline for performance on the state assessment and therefore should be viewed with some reserve when evaluating student proficiency in the content areas," said Northville Superintendent of Schools Mary Kay Gallagher. "Teachers and administrators across the school district will use this data as one source of information, together with other assessments of student learning, to improve our curriculum and instructional practices, enhance student intervention and support programs, and refine school improvement goals."

Specific information about scores by individual schools in Northville and results from surrounding districts is available at www.northvilleschools.org and clicking on the "MI School Data" link on the home page.

Individual M-STEP reports for those Northville Public School students tested in spring 2015 will be sent to parents in January. Parents with questions about the M-STEP scores or how to seek assistance for their child should contact their child's school, according to a district spokesperson.

Festival winners announced

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce recently named the winners in the Winter Fest competitions.

Barber Bob's won first place, Belleville Bariatric won second place and Photography by Shannon third place in the Main Street Decoration contest.

The Soup Crawl winners included first-place winner Egan's Pub, Butternut Squash Soup, Cheddar Soup from JT's Pub won second place and Chicken Tortilla Soup from JT's Pub took third place honors.

Parade winners included the Radio Flyer Wagon, Bryan Suliman, PLIC as the Best Business entry; Belleville High School Productions Willy Wonka as the Best School entry; Van Buren Soccer Association as the Best Community Organization entry.

The Grand Marshal Award went to Wayne County Fair and the Best Municipal winner was the Belleville Area District Library.

BYC was awarded the Best Non-Profit award at the event.

Contract

FROM PAGE 1

rescheduled meetings and slowed progress of any contract settlement.

Blackburn said the union was working with a state mediator since last January and that even he cannot understand the lack of progress.

Reportedly, the issues of pay rate and insurance costs are the sticking points in finalizing an agreement.

Blackburn indicated that he suspected members of the city council may be unaware of the failure of the negotiations and the filing for binding arbitration.

"All we wanted was to have an agreement on wages, go from $5 to $10 in training," Blackburn said.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthtwp.org under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2016: January 12, February 9, March 1, March 15, April 12, April 26, May 17, June 14, July 19, August 9, September 13, September 27, October 11, October 25, November 15 and December 13.
Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

PT122415-0019 2.5 x 1.718

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA
JANUARY 14, 2016

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM**. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188.

7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jim Cisek, Vicki Welty, Craig Engel, Alan Okon and Cathryn Colthurst.
Alternate: Gregory Demopoulos

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes: December 10th, 2015 Minutes

General Calendar:

1. **TABLED ITEM from November 12, 2015: Faras Haisha, Jonna Properties**, Applicant for vacant property located on Parcel 71-037-99-0001-005 near the corner of Warren and Sheldon Roads, appealing Article 26, Section 26.03 (E) Relative to Setbacks Adjacent to Residential Districts and Section 6.02 E.2 relative to Setbacks for Outdoor Play Areas for Child Care Centers. (Planning)

2. **Applicant and Project Representative, Kim Harraf, Community Association Manager Herriman & Assoc., Inc. Management Agent for The Arbor Village Condominium Association** for the property at located 43418 Arbor West on the South Side of Palmer Road east of Sheldon, appealing Section 5.03 (c) 4 Requirements for multiple-family districts and Section 5.08 Obscuring Walls and Fences to allow the original concrete buffer wall to be replaced with a vinyl fence in Multiple – Family District, Parcel 105-05-0181-000 (Planning)

3. **Applicant, Rakesakomar R. Patel, and Project Representative William Jarratt, Jarrat Architecture,** for Parcel 71-142-01-0076-000, vacant property on the west side of Lotz Road South of Michigan Avenue, appealing Section 5.03A.2 Variance from Protective Screening Requirements, C-4 District. (Planning)

Written comments need to be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on the date of the hearing. All written comments must be sent to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, Phone 734-394-5120.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS
The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two a week notice to the Charter Township of Canton. These services include signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:
Gwyn Belcher, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

EC122415-1235 2.5 x 5.89

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS
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Gwyn Belcher, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Published: December 24, 2015

EC122415-1231 2.5 x 1.557

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, AND MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 11, 2016, in the ***First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.*** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

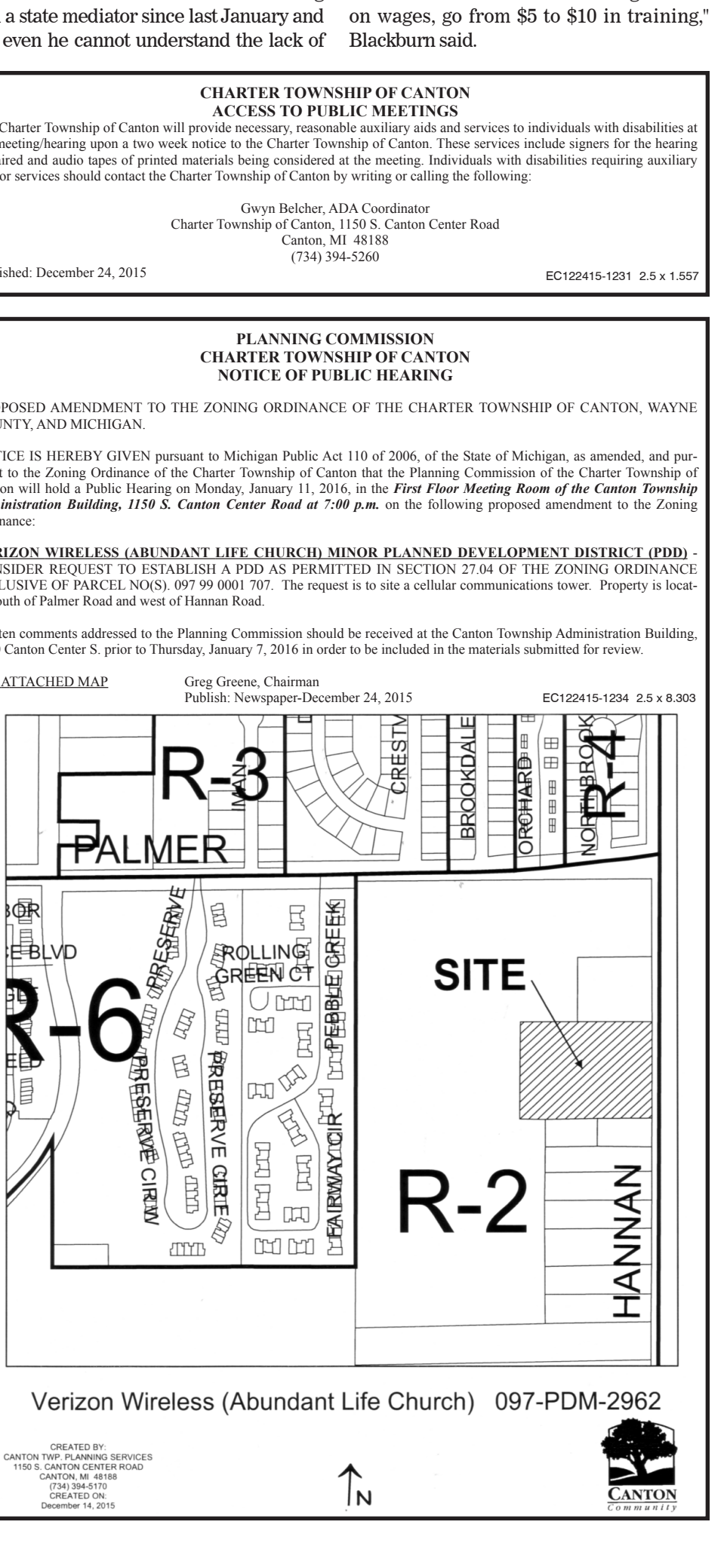
VERIZON WIRELESS (ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH) MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S). 097 99 0001 707. The request is to site a cellular communications tower. Property is located south of Palmer Road and west of Hannan Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 7, 2016 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Greg Greene, Chairman
Publish: Newspaper-December 24, 2015

EC122415-1234 2.5 x 8.303



Inkster - Romulus - Westland

Bond sale for court project is approved

Members of the Romulus City Council have taken the first step toward the renovation and expansion of the 34th District Court.

At their regular meeting last month, members of the council unanimously approved the sale of up to $11 million in bonds for the project, which will be repaid by the court. The capital improvement bonds will be used to add and upgrade courtrooms, reconfigure the traffic flow at the facility and improve the municipal parking lot in the complex which also houses the Romulus City Hall and Romulus Library. Romulus owns the court building and the other buildings on the property.

The 34th District Court serves the cities of Belleville and Romulus and the townships of Van Buren, Sumpter and Huron, including 13 police departments including Metro Airport, Metroparks, Wayne County Sheriff, Michigan State Police and the Department of Natural Resources. The proposed renovations will add about 15,000 square feet to the court complex which has not been upgraded, according to officials, since the early 1990s.

Court Administrator/ Magistrate Al Hindman explained the plans in detail to members of the Romulus council during a study session prior to the Nov. 23 meeting. He told the council members that the Romulus court handles twice as many cases in half as much space as other district courts in the area. He said the project has been in the planning stages for more than eight years.

Plans include the addition of a courtroom and a new hallway which will provide better access to the two new and one refurbished courtrooms. The current hall will be used for interoffice traffic. A new entryway is planned at the front of the building including provisions for those going to the probation or cashier's office in a separate traffic pattern from those heading to the courtrooms.

The Romulus City Clerk will now publish a notification of the intent to sell the bonds. If taxpayers do not petition for a referendum vote on the matter within 45 days, the council can proceed with the bond sale after bid prices on the project are received.

Finalization of the bond sale is expected to take place in late summer or early fall of 2016.

Schools seek public input for future planning

Wayne Westland school administrators are developing a strategic plan to guide the direction of the district through the next 5 to 10 years.

That plan will include some big dreams, according to a statement from the district, and school officials are hoping to enlist the aid of local residents in shaping those dreams for the future of students in the district.

The strategic plan will be the "stimulus for continued innovation and excellence in our district, both now and into the future." The plan will be a guide to success and a chance for students, staff, parents, city officials and community members to share their dreams for the future of the district, officials said.

A series of 2-hour meetings has been scheduled through the end of January and will culminate in a presentation to members of the board of education in spring 2016.

Meetings are set for:

- Jan. 7, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting, David Hicks Elementary School, 100 Helen, in Inkster.
- Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren, in Westland.
- Jan. 14, 1 p.m., Seniors (open to all community members), Dyer Senior Center, 36745 Marquette, in Westland.
- Jan. 19, 1 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, 31250 Dorsey, in Westland.
- Jan. 19, 6 p.m., Community Meeting (open to all community members), Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, in Wayne.
- Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Parent Meeting (all parents welcome), Taft-Galloway Elementary School, 4035 Gloria, in Wayne.

Suggestions can also be submitted to http://wwcsd.net/home/strategic-planning-information/.

More information about the meetings and the process is available from Cheryl Watson or Sue Rawson at (734) 419-2010.

Brownfield district OK'd for former city hall site

Members of the Westland City Council approved a Brownfield Development plan for the Ford Road site of the former city hall during the Dec. 7 meeting.

The plan is an effort to promote the economic development and redevelopment of the site for the overall benefit of the community and spur additional redevelopment along the Ford Road corridor, according to a prepared statement from the office of Mayor William Wild. He said the plan provides for the redevelopment of the eligible property and makes the redevelopment eligible for reimbursement of certain eligible activity costs through tax increment financing.

The project is comprised of approximately 45 acres of land and the Brownfield plan includes four vacant buildings, all located on Ford Road. Along with the former city hall building, the plan includes the Bailey Recreation Center, a former fire station and the recently purchased Michigan Motor Exchange. The redevelopment may include environmental investigation and remediation, the abatement and demolition of existing buildings, mass site preparation activities and the construction associated infrastructure improvements to accommodate the redevelopment, according to Wild's office.

This property has been identified as an ideal location for mixed-use development with potential residential, retail, medical/educational, office and institutional/civic uses, the statement continued. The project also may include additional recreational and entertainment venues as well as complementary public space.

Under the approved Brownfield plan, the Westland Downtown Development Authority will be eligible for reimbursement of costs incurred to demolish the structures on Ford Road when the land is redeveloped. Those reimbursable estimated costs are projected at $75,000 for abatement of asbestos and hazardous materials; $350,000 for the demolition of the structures; $25,000 for administrative expenses and another $50,000 for plan preparation and due care activities and contingencies.

Classified

01. Obituaries	31. Help Wanted Sales	50. Pets & Supplies	64. Lawn & Garden Supplies	78. Hunting / Fishing	98. Manufactured/Mobile Homes	110. Lots for Sale
02. In Memoriam	32. Help Wanted Drivers	54. Rummage Sales	65. Tree Service	82. Wanted to Buy	99. Flats for Rent	111. Out of State Property
03. Cards of Thanks	33. Child Care	55. Estate Sales	66. Landscape / Nurseries	87. Room for Rent	100. Will Share	112. Commercial Lease
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots	34. Specialized Services	56. Flea Markets	67. Garden Plant / Supplies	88. Duplexes for Rent	101. Wanted to Rent	113. Real Estate Wanted
05. Personals/Announcements	35. Situations Wanted	57. Antiques	68. Garden / Produce	89. Apartments for Rent	102. Storage	114. Auto Accessories
06. Legal Notices	40. Business Opportunity	58. Garage and Yard Sales	70. Masonry / Brickwork	90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent	103. Business Property for Sale	115. Autos for Sale
07. Attorneys	42. Health and Fitness	59. Auctions	72. Cleaning Services	92. Business Places for Rent	104. Farms & Acreage for Sale	116. Antique & Classic Cars
08. Entertainment	43. Money to Loan	60. Moving Sales	73. Musical Merchandise	93. Banquet Halls	105. Mobile Homes for Sale	117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
09. Lost & Found	44. Music/Art Lessons	61. Misc. Items	74. Sporting Goods	94. Farm Land for Rent	106. Houses for Sale	118. Freebies
10. Coming Events	45. Adult Care	62. Building Supplies	75. Boats / Accessories	95. Real Estate	107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale	119. Auto Repairs
30. Help Wanted	46. Private Schools/Instruction	63. Business and OfficeEquipment	76. Remodeling & Renovations	96. Houses for Rent	108. Lake and Resort	120. Motorcycles
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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Raises recommended for Westland elected officials

Elected officials in Westland will have a few extra reasons to smile in the New Year.

The Westland Local Officers Compensation Commission recommended increases to the salaries of the mayor, members of the city council and the city clerk during their Nov. 13 meeting.

Diane Fritz, a former Westland City Clerk, was recently named as chairman of the compensation commission, which by statute is required to meet every odd numbered year to review the salaries of elected officials and make a recommendation regarding any changes.

"The commission reviewed comparable salaries in other cities and noted that Westland elected officials' pay scales have remained unchanged since 2008," Fritz said. "Through the committee's discussion on the matter, they determined that, at present, the salaries of the city clerk and the mayor are lower than several of the city's department heads, which are covered under a separate pay plan," she added.

Commission members unanimously voted to set the city clerk's salary at the maximum salary of pay grade one of the plan that is applied to the top department heads. The commissioners were also unanimous in their decision to increase the salary of the mayor to 5 percent more than that paid to top department heads. City council members will now be paid 15 percent of the top department head's salary in the city.

Commissioners also set the salary for the council president pro tem at 2.5 percent more than the other council members while the council president's salary will be 2.5 percent higher than the council president pro tem.

The new pay rates were established at: $15,471 for city council members; $15,858 for the council president pro tem and $16,254 for the council president.

Newly-elected City Clerk Richard LeBlanc will now be paid $103,140 annually and Mayor William Wild will be paid $108,297.

The salary determinations by the commission will be effective for 2015 and 2016. Members of city council had until Dec. 17 to reject the Commission recommendation.

Thing One and Thing Two, otherwise known as members of the Books for Benefits student literacy group from the University of Michigan, act out a skit from The Cat in the Hat for students at Hoover Elementary School.

Books for Benefits 'delivers'

Students at Hoover Elementary School in Wayne welcomed some very special visitors recently who brought along some early Christmas gifts.

Representatives from Books For Benefits, a student-led University of Michigan organization, made their very first official trip to Hoover, bringing along two books for each student.

The goal of the Books For Benefits group is to promote literacy for at-risk students. The visit to Hoover was the first Literacy Day effort of the group. Members of the Books for Benefits group read a poem to the students and then performed a skit from the Dr. Seuss classic, The Cat in the Hat.

In addition to two books, each student was also presented with a bag, a bookmark, a pad of paper and an eraser. Books for Benefits has also participated in reading and tutoring in the Metro Detroit area, and sets up events to promote literacy. The group volunteers also work with pen palls, book clubs and book drives, a spokesperson said.

For more information about Books for Benefits, email, nkjawad@umich.edu.

Court receives high marks

The 29th District Court in Wayne has made what can be a stressful experience far more understandable and comfortable for those who visit the facility.

For the third consecutive year, court users said they were satisfied with their experiences in the Wayne court. Using a survey that was administered statewide, users were asked questions about their level of satisfaction with court services. Across the board, court users said that the 29th District Court was accessible, timely, fair, and that they were treated with courtesy and respect.

"The public's input and perception of the court is vitally important because it helps us improve the efficiency of our court operations," said Chief Judge Laura Mack. "Getting high marks for three years in a row shows how hard our staff is working at the 29th District Court."

Survey results included a 94 percent result from users saying they were treated with courtesy and respect by court staff; 82 percent said the way the judge or magistrate handled their case was fair and 91 percent said they understood what happened in their case before leaving the court.

The survey was developed with input from judges and court administrators statewide and tabulated by the State Court Administrative Office. The survey enables courts to identify strengths, provide positive feedback to employees, and target areas for improvement, according to a prepared statement from the court. The survey was completed by a range of court users, including parties to cases, attorneys, jurors, and others.

The public satisfaction survey is part of a statewide initiative of the Michigan Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office to measure and report on court performance. In 2013 and 2014, a total of nearly 50,000 surveys were completed in courts throughout Michigan. More information is available at www.courts.mi.gov.

Arena upgrades to begin

Renovations at the Mike Modano Ice Arena in Westland will be completed by Envision Builders, Inc.

The contract for the $843,000 job was awarded to Envision Dec. 7 during the regular meeting of the Westland City Council. Envision was the lowest bid among 12 received by the city for the work.

The expansion and renovation of portions of the ice arena will include: a four locker room addition with separate showers and bathrooms, something currently shared; an activity room for community gatherings; the re-purposing of the existing locker rooms into female locker rooms; a referee locker room and a storage room for a second Zamboni

Construction is expected to be under way during the next 4-6 months, officials said, but will not disrupt activities within the arena. Funding for this project will come from the city capital improvement fund along with money raised during several years of community fundraising efforts, and a notable donation from The Mike Modano Foundation. The Mike Modano Ice Arena is located at 6210 Wildwood.

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Calendar of events

Northville Concern needs donations

Northville Civic Concern is in critical need of help in filling shelves. More than 180 Northville families rely on Civic Concern's assistance and support of the community is both necessary and appreciated. Gas and gift cards are particularly needed, along with non-expired canned or boxed food, including canned fruit, soup, cereals, side dishes and canned meat/fish products, a spokesman said.

Donations can be taken to the Northville Civic Concern office at 43261 West Seven Mile Road located in the Highland Lakes Shopping Plaza between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. During other hours, items can be dropped off at Cassel's Restaurant or World Wide Alterations also located in the Highland Lakes Shopping Plaza. Food donations are also accepted at Genitti's Restaurant, The UPS Store, Great Harvest Bread Company and Northville City Hall.

The Simply Give program at the Northville Meijer (Eight Mile Road and Haggerty) will continue through the first of the year. The purchase of a $10 donation card at each register directly benefits Northville Civic Concern. The Meijer Corporation matches each $10 donation. For more information, visit http://northvillevolunteer.wix.com/civic-concern or call Northville Civic Concern at (248) 344-1033 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

Blankets are needed

Plymouth Community United Way is holding a Blanket Drive in support of the homeless community through Jan. 15.

Blankets must be new, or handmade, and can be dropped at the Plymouth Community United Way office. The address is 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170.

For more information, call Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail randi.williams@pcuw.org.

County Lightfest is open

The 4-mile Wayne County Lightfest holiday display is now open.

Lightfest features more than 47 giant animated holiday themed displays. The entire light show has been converted to environmentally beneficial LED lights.

Lightfest is open from 7-10 p.m. Monday - Thursday; from 6-10 p.m. Friday - Sunday through Dec. 31. The exhibit is closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Visitors enter Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland and exit onto Warren Avenue near Telegraph Road in Dearborn Heights. There is a $5 fee per vehicle. Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday and at 5 p.m. Friday - Sunday.

Santa's Workshop at Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest drive will be open through Dec. 23, concurrent with the Lightfest hours of operation.

Letters to Santa can be mailed in the giant mailbox outside Santa's Workshop.

For more information, call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.

Museum seeks volunteers

The Wayne Historical Museum is seeking volunteers to help with various jobs including tour guides, display assistants and promotions.

Training will be provided and volunteers can choose their schedules and hours.

Applications are available at the museum from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. For more information, call (734) 722-0113.

Circus comes to Canton

The Village Theater is bringing unique New Year's Eve fun to families on Thursday, Dec. 31, when the Detroit Circus comes to town. This high energy performance is set to take place at 7 p.m. on the main stage, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI.

This is an animal-free circus.

In addition to the exciting performance on stage, audience members can enjoy a special preshow event starting at 6 p.m., featuring on-site face painting artists and strolling circus entertainers.

The Detroit Circus has been dazzling audiences for the past several years with their acrobatic skills and gravity defying acts. Watch as members of the aerial acrobatics troupe tie themselves into ornate poises utilizing silks hung from the rafters and captive audience members with grace, poise and incredible strength.

Tickets are $20 and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or in person at the Village Theater box office from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and include popcorn and a non-alcoholic beverage.

For more information, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org

Geneaologists to meet

The public is invited to attend, free of charge, a meeting of the Northville Genealogical Society from 1:15 until 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Northville District Library, 212 West Cady, in Northville.

A roundtable discussion, Hidden Hints of Ancestry.com, will begin at 1:15 p.m. with a short business meeting and refreshments at 2:30 p.m.

Karen Krugman will present "Here Comes the Judge - Researching Court Records" at 3 p.m.

Krugman is a professional genealogist involved in many local and state genealogical and heritage societies. She has written five books based on her family history research and was co-author of The Ford Family Cemetery book. This presentation showcases the holdings available at the courthouse in the community your ancestor lived.

Individual help on genealogy is offered in the Local History Room at the Northville District Library from 1-3 p.m. Monday afternoons and also by appointment. For more information contact Grace Wilfong at (248) 349-9079 or see our website: www.rootsweb.com/~mings

Daddy Daughter dances set

Come dance the night away at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department 5th annual Daddy Daughter Dance.

The dances will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and Feb. 6 at the Cultural Center Reception Room.

Music will be provided by a DJ from Dramatic Dimensions Entertainment. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Semi-formal, dressy-casual attire is recommended and the event is suitable for all ages. Advance ticket purchase is required because space is limited and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Register with the City of Plymouth Recreation Department, 525 Farmer Plymouth, www.ci.plymouth.mi.us/recreation.

For more information, call (734) 455-6620.

Dr. King's life celebrated

Canton Township will once again honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special tribute at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

A display of artworks by area students and a punch and cookie reception will begin at the Village Theater at 6 p.m., followed by the main program at 6:30 p.m. This annual event is presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage, members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sub-Committee, and Canton Township. Admission to this special presentation is $2 and reserved seats can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Canton Township Officials John Anthony, Terry Bennett, Phil LaJoy, Melissa McLaughlin, Steven Sneideman and Patrick Williams personally donated the scholarship and award money for winners of the art and essay contests.

The reception is sponsored annually by Darian and Ralynda Moore of Keller Williams Realty of Plymouth.

For more information about this special performance and the latest exhibition in the Gallery@VT, call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org

Eagles plan Mardi Gras

The Van Buren Eagles are planning a Mardi Gras 2016 party beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Eagles Hall, 9961 Beck road in Van Buren Township.

The event will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music will be by Monsieur Guillame and His Zydeco Hepcats. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door, if available.

For information and reservations, call Keith and Ginger Bruder, (734) 461-2498.

New Years Eve tickets on sale

There are still a few tickets left for the City of Romulus New Year's Eve Party. No tickets for the event will be sold at the door.

Tickets are priced at $50 per person and include a full dinner, beer and wine, a champagne toast at midnight, music and dancing. Tickets can be purchased at the mayor's office at City Hall. There is also a special offer from LaQuinta hotel for $89 a night which includes transportation to the event which will take place at the Romulus Progressive Hall on Ozga Road from 7:30 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Proceeds from the party will help fund free movies for the community next summer on the 30-foot, state-of-the-art inflatable screen.

The mayor's office is located at 11111 Wayne Road in Romulus.

For more information, call the Community Services Department (734) 955-4501.

Teens

FROM PAGE 1

O"Bryant, 18 of Romulus, and Marcus Darnell Wilhide, 17, of Wayne when they were arraigned on breaking and entering charges during their arraignment Dec. 7 at 35th District Court before Judge Ron Lowe.

McLeod and Wilhide were released on personal bond while Lowe set a $500 bond for O'Bryant. Disposition of the fourth suspect's case will be handled in the juvenile system.

A court hearing on the charges is set for Dec. 28.

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